



Press release

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Chemical Materials Agency (Provisional)

Public Outreach and Information Office

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ALARM SOUNDS AT ABCDF DRAIN STATION

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – An alarm sounded in a drain station room at the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility at about 5 a.m. on Saturday, June 28. No personnel were in the room at the time of the alarm, and an evacuation was not necessary.

A ton container in the room had been drained, decontaminated and released from its airtight seal, and was still sitting on the cradle at the drain station. The alarm sounded a few minutes after employees had left the room to prepare to remove the container. The alarm included low-level readings of mustard vapor, which dispersed after 15 minutes.

At no time was anyone inside or outside the facility in danger from the incident, and all of the facility's ventilation engineering controls were in place to ensure no vapor escaped the facility.

ABCDF officials are investigating the cause of the agent alarm.